

are a child's first teachers, and we recognize their critical role in helping children do well in school. My Administration is committed to helping parents and schools ensure that every child has the best opportunity to learn and succeed.

On Parents' Day, we pay tribute to mothers and fathers and celebrate the special bonds of love between parents and their children. We also express our deep gratitude to parents who serve in the Armed Forces and those whose sons and daughters have answered the call to defend our country. Our Nation is grateful for their honorable service and for the sacrifices family members make as their loved ones work to advance the cause of freedom.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103–362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 22, 2007, as Parents' Day. I call upon citizens, private organizations, and governmental bodies at all levels to engage in activities and educational efforts that recognize, support, and honor parents, and I encourage American sons and daughters to convey their love, respect, and appreciation to their parents.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:07 a.m., July 13, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 16.

**Memorandum on Waiver of Limitation on Obligation and Expenditure of \$642.5 Million in Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Support Funds for Iraq**

*July 12, 2007*

Presidential Determination No. 2007–27

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Waiver of Limitation on Obligation and Expenditure of \$642.5 million in Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Support Funds for Iraq

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 1314(c)(2) of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110–28) (the "Act"), I hereby waive the requirements of section 1314(c)(1) for \$642.5 million of Fiscal Year 2007 Economic Support Funds for Iraq and direct you to submit to the Congress this determination along with the certification in accordance with section 1314(c)(2) of the Act.

You are hereby directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

**Message to the Congress Transmitting the Initial Benchmark Assessment Report**

*July 12, 2007*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 1314 of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110–28) (the "Act"), attached is the report that assesses the status of each of the 18 Iraqi benchmarks contained in the Act and declares whether satisfactory progress toward meeting these benchmarks is, or is not, being achieved.

This report has been prepared in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Defense; Commander, Multi-National Forces—Iraq; the United States Ambassador to Iraq;

and the Commander of United States Central Command.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
July 12, 2007.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting  
the International Convention for the  
Suppression of Acts of Nuclear  
Terrorism**

*July 12, 2007*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (the "Convention"), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on April 13, 2005, and signed on behalf of the United States of America on September 14, 2005. As of July 3, 2007, 115 countries have signed the Convention and 23 have submitted their instruments of ratification or accession. The Convention entered into force on July 7, 2007. I also transmit for the information of the Senate a report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

The Convention imposes binding legal obligations upon States Parties either to submit for prosecution or to extradite any person within their jurisdiction who commits terrorist acts involving radioactive material or a nuclear device as set forth in Article 2 of the Convention, threatens or attempts to commit such an act, participates as an accomplice, organizes or directs others to commit such an offense, or in any other way contributes to the commission of such an offense by a group of persons acting with a common purpose, regardless of where the alleged act took place.

States Parties to the Convention will also be obligated to provide one another legal assistance in investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offenses set forth in Article 2, in conformity with any treaties or other arrangements that may exist between them or in accordance with their national law. The recommended legislation necessary to implement the Con-

vention will be submitted to the Congress separately.

This Convention is important in the campaign against international terrorism. I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention, subject to the understandings and reservation that are described in the accompanying State Department report.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
July 12, 2007

NOTE: This item was released by the Office of the Federal Register on July 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks Following a Briefing By  
Provincial Reconstruction Team  
Leaders and Brigade Combat  
Commanders**

*July 13, 2007*

As part of our strategy to succeed in Iraq, I not only reinforced our military efforts with more troops, we also surged civilians to work with our military to help the reconciliation efforts in a country that is still recovering from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein.

And today my Security Council here had a opportunity not only to speak with our Ambassador in Iraq but also five members of Provincial Reconstruction Teams, three civilians and two military—colonels. They have briefed us on the grassroots effort to improve services, to improve the economy, to encourage local government, all aiming at enhancing this concept of reconciliation from the bottom up.

We heard from the PRT leader in Anbar. I had the honor of speaking to him months ago, and now he has briefed us on the progress that he has seen. Listen, there is still a lot of work to be done. But these people at the grassroots understand that most Iraqis want to live in peace and that, with time, we'll be able to help them realize that dream.

And so I want to thank you once again for your outstanding service to our Nation in the cause of peace. What happens in Iraq